

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously presented) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said blunt surfaces are radially inwardly of said sharp surfaces.

3. (Previously presented) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said sharp surfaces are serrated

4. (Withdrawn) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said sharp surfaces are chrome plated.

5. (Withdrawn) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising a spring biasing said cutting tool toward the open position.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Withdrawn) A method of cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising the steps of:

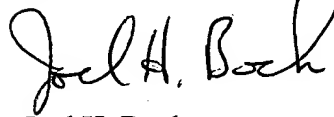
- a) providing a cutting tool having opposingly directed blunt surfaces and opposingly directed sharp surfaces, said cutting tool movable between an opened and a closed position;
  - b) inserting said fiber optic cable between said opposingly directed blunt surfaces;
  - c) moving said cutting tool to the closed position whereby crushing said optical fiber without cutting through said protective layer;
  - d) moving said cutting tool to the opened position;
  - e) inserting said fiber optic cable between said opposingly directed sharp surfaces;
- and

f) moving said cutting tool to the closed position whereby cutting through said protective layer.

8. (Currently Amended) A hand-held cutting tool for cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising:

first and second cutting members pivotably attached to one another about a pivot axis to allow for pivotable movement of the cutting members between an opened position and a closed position, the first and second cutting members each defining a length and a width, the first and second cutting members each including a cutting edge which has a blunt surface and a sharp surface with the blunt surfaces being configured differently from the sharp surfaces, the cutting edges lying in adjacent parallel planes with the cutting edges in facing relation, at least a portion of each blunt surface being spaced a distance from the pivot axis such that the blunt surface of each one of the first and second cutting members extends beyond the width of the other of the first and second cutting member when the cutting edges of the first and second cutting members form an angle in relation to one another which is no larger than 90° ~~which is sufficient to allow a fiber optic cable to be engageable with the blunt surfaces when the cutting members move from the open position to the closed position on a fiber optic cable placed between the cutting members.~~

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel H. Bock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joel" being more prominent.

Joel H. Bock

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